

## <sup>1</sup>Melvin S. “Duff” Anderson

Tape #229

Interviewed 7 March 1990 by Joseph Winder

Joseph Winder (JW): Tell me something about who you are, when you were born and who your parents were.

Duff Anderson (Duff): My name is Melvin Sven Anderson, I was born at Deep Creek in Utah and my Dad's name was George Walter Anderson and my mother's name was Bedila Hullinger Anderson.

JW: You were related to Winfield Hullinger and Harold and them?

Duff: In a way, yes, my Grandfather Hullinger was adopted by Dr. Hullinger.

JW: Oh, I see.

Duff: And he was probably his son anyway as far as I know but we are related to the Hullingers. While I was on Deep Creek, well the first thing that happened when I was about three years old, my Dad and Mother had to go to Salt Lake, you know to have an operation on my Mother, she had cancer and I was three years old and it took three days to drive out there. We stopped at Myton the first time and Currant Creek the second day and then we drove to Heber the third day and then we rode the train from there on in to Salt Lake.

My Mother was operated on and we stayed with—I was trying to think—one of Mother's relatives anyway. We stayed with them until the operation was all over with and when we come back, the only thing I ever remember was one or two spots there to Salt Lake, you know, me a bawlin', and just as we were coming home and just as we were driving up to the house. I remember that and that was only thing that I remember.

I lived up on Deep Creek until I was nine years old and we came to Vernal. We lived down here where the golf course is. We lived on that place and it belonged to McNeil's at the time. After we lived there, my Dad bought a place from Mr. Meagher and we lost it. So my Dad went to work out at the Gilsonite mine. After he worked out there for a year, why we moved out to the Gilsonite mine from then until I was about fifteen years old.

JW: Did you go to schools in Roosevelt at all or LaPoint before you came to Vernal?

Duff: No, there was a school up there to Deep Creek. There was eight grades up there and we had to walk—it seems to me that it was a mile and a half down to school. It was down there by Johnsons' place, up there on Deep Creek and the Johnsons' place was only about a hundred yards from the school house and it was centerwise for all the students that went to school.

JW: Which school did you go to here in Vernal?

Duff: We came here when I was in the third grade. I started here at Central School. One year there, and then when we moved down on the McNeil place. Then I went to Naples, then we moved to the Gilsonite mine out to Dragon.

JW: Did they have a school building out there?

Duff: Yes, they had the school out there at Rector, we had a school and Mrs. Twitchell was our first school teacher out there and she was a good school teacher, too.

JW: What was her maiden name?

Duff: That was her maiden name, I can't remember what her----

JW: She lived over on Wasatch for a while after----I knew her very well.

Duff: But I really don't know what her maiden name was, but Mrs. Twitchell. She was sure a fine school teacher and then after she left there, why then Mrs. Elvira Hullinger taught out there one year and then Mrs. Twitchell was teaching down to Dragon, so I walked over that one mountain down into Dragon from Rector and went to school with Mrs. Twitchell.

JW: You liked her for a teacher.

Duff: Oh yes, she was a good school teacher. Mrs. Hullinger was a good school teacher, but I think it was more or less the kids that was running down there that I wanted to go down.

JW: How many students did you have and how many classes?

Duff: They was around about ten or twelve students out to Rector, and they was around about fifteen down to Dragon and they was anywhere from first grade to eighth grade she taught, you know----

JW: All in one room.

Duff: All in one room.

JW: Did you have regular school desks?

Duff: Oh yes, we had school desks. It was right up to standard.

JW: No hot lunches?

Duff: No hot lunches. No, there was no hot lunches up there. We had to take our lunches, but I always fasted until I got home, and then I could eat more.

JW: You had more time to play at noon.

Duff: Yeah, had more time to play at noon. My mother, she ran a boarding house out there. She didn't have time to make me lunch and I wasn't too— Eat a big breakfast, you know, and go down there an' go to school and then come back.

It was around about, I think it was about a mile up over the mountain and down the other side that I had to go down.

JW: You went down to the town of Dragon?

Duff: Yeah, down there where the railroad was.

JW: Were you acquainted with Banks?

Duff: Oh yeah, Banks. W. A. Banks and Louie Jacobsen drove truck out there at Watson. After we left Dragon, we moved down to Watson and my dad worked in that store down there, and then he left there and went back up to Dragon again.

JW: Tell me about the second ten years of your life. Did you come to Vernal to attend school?

Duff: No, we came to Vernal because my dad was through up there. He run the thoroughbred ranch up there to Deep Creek and I don't know, he just up and wanted to leave. I lost a brother up there, you know. He died and my mother wanted to get away, you know, because it just, it was too far away from the doctor's and she wanted to be down here.

JW: How many brothers and sisters do you have altogether, including the one that died?

Duff: I had five brothers and six sisters. There was twelve of us altogether.

JW: It's a big family.

Duff: Big family, we enjoyed each other.

JW: You still do, don't you?

Duff: Oh, yeah.

JW: Now, you came to Vernal High School, didn't you? Did your family move over to Vernal at that time?

Duff: Well, after my dad left, he moved back into Vernal. He moved back in when I was about seventeen or eighteen years old and we lived down here on Samuel's place, you know right by Eula, where you lived, and that's where I went to high school. I walked from there on up to the high school.

JW: Quite a little walk.

Duff: Yeah, it's quite a little walk.

JW: Better than two miles.

Duff: Yeah, it's a good two miles.

JW: I know it's a mile and a half. It was really two miles from our place. Central School was a mile and a quarter, and it's another half mile or a little over.

Duff: A little over a half mile it was.

JW: I guess you'd cut up through the fields there and...

Duff: Sometimes, according how deep the snow was. If the snow was pretty deep, why, we'd go around the road where the tracks were, but we quite enjoyed it.

JW: Do you remember any of your teachers or your principal in the high school?

Duff: Let's see. Robert L. Pixton was the principal out there when I started and Noble was the next principal that come after him. But Mrs. Oaks was one of the school teachers and Mrs. Johnson—was a few of them. You know, right now I couldn't name them. Harold Lundell was one of the school teachers. He taught...

JW: Agriculture.

Duff: Yeah, agriculture and commercial arithmetic.

JW: This Oaks was Dallin Oaks' mother?

Duff: Yeah, Dallin Oaks' mother, that taught up here. She taught English.

JW: Yes.

Duff: Yeah, she was a good English teacher.

JW: I had her as a teacher too.

Duff: Did she also teach you in English?

JW: No, she taught me in dramatic art.

Duff: Oh, she was a right good English teacher.

JW: A very enjoyable person to be around. She had good discipline, so it gave you a lot of encouragement.

Duff: I don't think she had any problems in her class whatsoever. No, I don't think she had any problem whatsoever. I'll tell you what, I wouldn't dare do anything wrong and have the teacher go to my dad, 'cause he stuck up for the teachers, he didn't stick up for his---- which is right--

JW: That's the way; back them up.

Duff: You bet, I'll tell you that's what's wrong with the schools now: that the parents sticks up for the kids and not the teachers, and they don't dare do anything.

After I got out of high school, I farmed for a couple of years and there was very much money in that there farming. You know, butterfat went down to, what was it about ten or twelve cents. We made good money, you know, when it was up pretty good 'cause we had—I think it got up to thirty odd cents one time. Then it kept coming down and down, I think it got ten or twelve cents, and you can milk all day long and not make anything out of them. After that I went out and worked out there to Bonanza, and I worked there for six years. I was one of them that helped sink that shaft over there to Eureka. I and Mark Mackay and Loyd Lynn and George Robbins, we sunk that shaft over there.

JW: Now is that kind of east of Bonanza?

Duff: Yeah, it's just east and north—northeast just a little bit, it's only about a mile over there from Bonanza.

JW: Well is that the one that eventually blew up?

Duff: No, the one that blew up was right there in Bonanza, right in the town of Bonanza.

JW: Were you working out there at that time?

Duff: No, I worked out there eight years at the mine altogether and when I left there, why Uncle Sam kind of wanted me and so I started working for Uncle Sam.

JW: Tell us a little more about ? and what the product looks like and what the uses were that they made of it?

Duff: The mine out here it isn't like the coal mine where you tunnel back into the mountain. It goes right straight down and the walls are just as smooth as they can be, sometimes they have loose rocks, you know, that you have to peel off and timber up, but I quite enjoyed the work out there because it was the only cash money around here. The stuff that they made of it—insulation for electric wires and they used it in automobiles for ceiling stuff, you know, in automobiles.

JW: Ford cars are all painted with Gilsonite.

Duff: Yeah, they had Gilsonite in the paint, and you know Gilsonite was good insulation. You take this here fine Gilsonite and blow it on these pipes—insulate them, then they could put steam into the pipes and they would seal it off and it wouldn't melt anymore. It wasn't that high of temperature----

JW: It was quite flammable, wasn't it?

Duff: Yeah, it was just like gunpowder. You could take that fine stuff and throw it on the fire and it'd pretty near catch your hand before you could bring it back.

JW: Tell us a little about when you worked over there and when you lived over there. How did they get the product on the market.

Duff: They had trucks at Dragon, the company had trucks that they had truck drivers on and they'd go up and load the trucks up there at the mine and haul it back down to railroad track. They'd park the cars tight there; it was only about three miles. They had to use the trucks, you know, and three miles down the canyon. They'd load those cars and then the railroad would take it over to Mack, Colorado, and I don't know where it went from there, all over the world. But when we was out there to Rainbow, they used to haul it down and put it on the railroad track. Then they got so they'd haul it from Bonanza to Craig, Colorado, and they'd haul it up there loose and that's where they'd sack it, up there to Craig, Colorado. It's still runnin'.

JW: Now you talk about them loading it on trucks. How did it come up out of the mine?

Duff: You know its right straight down and they built a three-tripod and put a pulley up above and one down to the bottom and they'd use a tractor. To start with, when they first started, they used horses to pull it up, one sack or two sacks or three sacks, but when I worked out there to Bonanza, we shipped three sacks up at a time and the sacks weighed around about two hundred twenty-five pounds a sack.

JW: What was the diameter of them about? Could you reach around them?

Duff: The sacks? Oh yeah, you could reach around them. They was quite heavy stuff. It was right black, coal-y black stuff. It was really shiny. It was beautiful lookin' ore.

JW: When you were loading that to take up on the tripod, did you have to lift a sack up and put it over there? Or two of you—

Duff: There was two of them up on top and when the sacks come up, you know, they'd take and land those sacks down here on the platform and then on this here platform they'd take and back up, you know, and put the sacks on their back and carry them out to the ends of the dump and stack them up. Bill Postma used to be able to really do a good job. He was little, but he was strong, and he could carry those two hundred and twenty-five- to two hundred and thirty-pound sacks up there and then the trucks would come along and take them off of the dump.

JW: You had to put the ore in the sacks and then sew the sacks up down in the mine?

Duff: Down in the mine, you know, you'd use a pick and shovel down there. But the way you'd dig it was you'd have to dig a trench up the right side of the wall, on each side, then break it out and then take and sack it. You'd take a pick and put the handle down into the center of the sack

and throw ears (?) around it, you know, and take a scoop shovel and just take and fill that sack up and then you take and sew it and fix it where you could ship three sacks at a time up.

JW: I've heard it said that Luvie Jacobsen could pick up one of those sacks and throw it on the truck with one hand. Do you know anything about that ?

Duff: No, but he could do yeah, he could. He was a strong man, Luvie was.

JW: How much did he weigh, do you imagine?

Duff: He weighed about, I imagine about two twenty-five, two forty. He wasn't fat; he was all muscle. Just as good-natured a man as I ever saw in my life.

JW: And Mr. Banks was one that had trucks out there. Did he own the trucks?

Duff: Mr. Banks and Luvie Jacobsen was in together and they bought the trucks together. You know, I'm pretty sure that's the way it was because they worked together, but I know Luvie's the one that got the contract. Mr. Ford, he liked Luvie Jacobsen pretty well and they went on trips together. They made pretty good money at it.

JW: Well, I guess back in those days they could sell all that they mined and there was always demand for it, wasn't there?

Duff: Well, sometimes there was streaks, you know. They'd stockpile it out there, and if they got too many, then they'd work three days a week, and then if we got busy, we'd work five. To start with we worked five days and then if we got too much over on hand, then three days would be all there was.

JW: Back in those days did you earn seventy-five cents an hour or something like that or----

Duff: When I first went out, I made \$4.32 a day and we had a pay \$1.25 for board. Then when we come to Vernal, we had to pay \$2.00 for a ride into Vernal, so it didn't leave you too much money. Our checks run around about \$40.00 to \$55.00 a month. That's after everything was taken out.

JW: That would buy as much as \$800.00 now, wouldn't it?

Duff: I believe it would. They lived on it out there.

JW: A lot of them had little farms and raised some of their food where their families lived—

Duff: When we worked at Bonanza, most of them lived right there in Bonanza. There was just a few of us single guys like Clyde Chivers. He had a farm, but the rest of us, we just—that was our home.

JW: Now tell me a little about the Indian people that used to be out in that area.

Duff: Those Indians out there were pretty good. They'd have these Indian dances every once in a while down there to Dragon. They'd charge whatever you'd give them to dance with them. The squaws would go ask the men and then the men would either pay them a dime—if you paid them more than a dime, boy, all the squaws was after you. I know my Dad danced quite a bit with them and he'd give them a dime, you know. I don't what kind of a holler it was, but he'd holler something. They had these drums, you know, that they used sticks, they'd go up and down to keep the rhythm, and I got up there by one Indian and I was going to do it and he said, "Now when you go, do it the same as I do." So, I just went right along with him and he acted like he was having as good a time as I was.

JW: Did they have any drums that they beat or just this stick?

Duff: It was a stick, yeah. I can't remember just what was down here to make that noise but—

JW: Then they kind of lined up in a big long line—

Duff: They'd line up in a big long line. Just two rows women on one end and men on the other and they'd go up and down, you know.

JW: They'd come up and meet and then they'd back up, and up and back—

Duff: A guy up here named Ogasaw, or something like that, he often dressed as a woman because he wouldn't fight, you know. When they had that Indian massacre up at Meeker, he wouldn't fight, so they made him dress up as a woman. He was in dresses all the time.

JW: Was he kind of disgraced, in other words, because he wouldn't fight? A coward or something that way?

Duff: Something like that, I don't know. I imagine it was just to make him dress in woman's clothes, not worthy to be an Indian chief or buck anymore. They used to take bales of hay and throw on his back and go up Dragon Canyon. I don't know how far he carried that to his horse, and I don't know how far he carried that, but I know when I went to school I had to climb a ledge about, oh, about thirty feet, you know, with the rope, and there was a rope up here tied around and I'd slide down this here rope—

JW: Then you'd have to shimmy up when...

Duff: Yeah, when I went back.

JW: The Rector Mine was kind of to the west of Dragon. The old Black Dragon Mine—was that fire out there before you went out?

Duff: Oh yeah, years before.

JW: Did it ever burn itself out?

Duff: Yeah, oh yeah, it burned itself out. I don't think it was over about three-quarters of a mile from the Dragon town up to the mine, just a little ways.

JW: Well now, I've heard that John T. Pope was able to get oil out of one of those old mines there. Do you know anything about that?

Duff: I never was to that, where that oil seeped up out of the ground, but it was up above Dragon about, oh, three or four miles. Up one of those canyons, you know. Oil come out, I don't know just how it came out. I know my Dad got a fifty gallon—

(Side 2 of tape, *something is missing at beginning of this tape.*)

The cow's teats would get dry and the dairymen would buy some of this oil when they'd crack. It was sure good stuff for that. It would heal those udders and teats.

JW: I know Van Massey used to sell that oil. He'd bought forty gallons and he'd put it in bottles and sell it to you for medicine, for your cow or cuts on horses.

Duff: Could have done, I don't know.

JW: Yes, we bought some. It was good stuff. It was very healing.

Duff: When we was there on Samuels' place, that's when we got that fifty-gallon drum and that's when we used our mowing machines. You'd have to oil it more often. It was thin and I'd make about one round or two rounds—about one round is all you could make, and you'd have to stop and oil them again.

JW: I can remember having a bottle of that around and using it when I was milking the cows there at home. Van, he, of course, would come up that way and he'd sell it a bottle for a dollar or maybe a quarter or something that way, and that would help him to keep his large family. He had fourteen children. Very enterprising man. Now where did these Indians trade? Did they have a store there in Dragon where they bought supplies or anything?

Duff: They'd buy there at Watson and Dragon both. Dorr Finicum's Dad was the one that run the store in Dragon and I was trying to think of the one that... There was a Pope that was running it when my Dad went down there to work to Watson. He was running that one and there was more Indians that would go to Watson than they would to Dragon. Guess it was closer, but I don't know where they lived, the roads was... But Watson was a little nearer.

JW: It was a bigger and more established place, wasn't it?

Duff: Oh yeah, that was the end of the railroad. They had a hotel. Well, they had a hotel at Dragon. Dragon was a bigger town than Watson, but when the sheep shearers would go out

there to Watson, that's when Watson was really boom, because they would stay there at the hotel and eat there.

JW: They'd shear a lot of...Vernal people sheared their sheep out there and they'd winter them out in that vicinity, wouldn't they, then shear them? They'd head for Diamond Mountain and do their lambing up on the mountain.

Duff: Most generally they had to be up on Diamond by the tenth of May. That's when they start lambing, pretty nearly every one of them figured the tenth of May was the... I don't know just how they had that arranged.

JW: They were all competing to get that shearing done. Year they'd get those shearers in there by the first of April. Of course, you always ran into storms, too, and that would throw them off schedule, but I know it was quite a problem to make sure you were on the mountain by the tenth of May.

Duff: There was one there at Watson and then one somewhere by White River, you know. I can't remember just exactly where that was, but it was somewhere along in there that there was one. That was where Clyde Chivers used to go shear.

JW: He could make more money shearing, I guess, than mining.

Duff: Oh yeah. He'd ask for a six weeks off, you know. If they weren't too busy, why Floyd, he would let him take six weeks off and he'd shear all through Utah and up in Wyoming. I don't know just how far they did go.

JW: Some of them went up into Montana, I believe. They'd follow the weather up that way, and start down here, and wind up in Montana for about six weeks or so, and the weather would be good up that way.

Well now, Duff, could you tell me a little about your life in the service and how you came... Were you drafted into this or were you...?

Duff: Yeah, I was drafted into the service on May 2, 1942 and they shipped a few to Texas. We was down there for two months. They tried to find a place for us, so they shipped us to Chanute Field Air Force Base, Illinois, and I was there for about a year, pretty near a year and a half. After I left Chanute Field, they sent me here to Utah and I was here for about three weeks and they shipped me on down to the islands. The first place we landed down there was New Caledonia. After we left there, then we moved from New Caledonia to New Guinea, and we was in New Guinea for, I don't know just how long we were in New Guinea. Then they shipped us from there to the Philippines and that's when MacArthur went back in. I didn't go with them when they went to Mindanao but when they landed there on Luzon, we was one of the first ones that landed there. It wasn't too bad, you know, when we went in.

JW: I guess it was when the war first broke out over there it was really a rough time, wasn't it?

Duff: I imagine it was, yeah, because the Japanese had the full run of everything over there, and, you know, you'd read the papers and this and that and what the Japanese took and how they'd taken Manila and all those places, you know. I had to a chance to go to Australia, I could've had a chance if I had known what I know now. You could hitch-hike a ride on those planes and they'd go from Australia to New Caledonia pretty near every day. New Zealand and back but I...

JW: Go down and come back the next day or something like that? That made it interesting.

Duff: You know when you don't have experience, you're afraid to do too much. You're afraid you're going to do something wrong.

JW: Did you work in the Quartermaster Corps or ?

Duff: When I was in Field Air Force Base, Illinois, I was in the M Ps, and when we went down, I got into the, well, it was the 35<sup>th</sup> fighter control squadron, you know, to start with, and then they changed it. I think it was two something. I can't remember what it was after they changed the name of it. There was a thirty-five squadron somewhere else, so they had to change that one, and I was on guard duty there in the Philippines.

JW: Would you take eight-hour guard duty and then be off?

Duff: The only thing I hated was going out there in the tullies on guard duty and all alone. You worried quite a bit, you know, and they was right there close somewhere and I didn't know where. Yeah it was, because there was a few times the Japanese would filter through and, boy, they would call you out, post you here, and they'd want you to walk at night. I found me a place to hide where I could watch a lot better than I could watch in my post. Let the Japanese walk, but I never did run into them, you know, like that and it seemed to me that the infantry would catch up with them before they got too far in. See they was this fighter control squadron. There was a —plane spotter's, you know, it was...

JW: Trying to detect the enemy planes?

Duff: They'd keep track of all the American planes, you know, that hadn't spotted on these borders, you know, just where each one was, and that's what it was all about.

JW: Then you stayed right there in the islands until the war ended over there, I guess?

Duff: Yeah. When the war ended, I was there at Manila, right down there close to Manila, Clark Field, anyway. Clark Field is where I was stationed, and when we left there—I think the war was over about a month before we got the chance to come home—and we went over on the same boat we came back on and it was the slowest boat that you could find. Took us twenty-one days to go down to New Caledonia.

JW: That wouldn't have suited me. I get seasick.

Duff: Then when we went from New Guinea to Noufors(?) Island. They flew us there. There was a Norwegian ship that we went on from New Caledonia to New Guinea, and I can't remember the ship that we went on from that one island to the Philippines.

JW: So you were actually overseas about four years?

Duff: Forty-four months. I wasn't overseas, but I was in the service forty-four months. I was over there right close to two years. That was long enough, yeah, that was long enough.

JW: Tell me about after the war ended there and you returned to Vernal to live here.

Duff: Yeah, when we left Oakland, California, we came out here to Fort Douglas. We was let out of the service and I came to Vernal. My brother-in-law had the Basin Chevrolet Garage at the time and I went to work for him and I worked for him until he got killed.

JW: That was George McCurdy.

Duff: Yeah, that was George McCurdy. Got killed. And then after he got killed, why, I didn't care about working there any longer, so I started working for Basin Laundry. I worked for Basin Laundry for thirty-one years. After I quit the laundry, I worked for Basin Machine for a year and a half and then the bottom dropped out, and I stayed home and I retired then.

JW: Tell me a little about your church, what the time in your life was.

Duff: When I got active in the church was when I got married. I was fifty-eight years old when I got married and I married a woman that was going to church, and she had two boys. I wanted to play golf all the time on Sundays, but that was the only time I had off. So finally she said, "Well, I think you ought to take those boys to Priesthood meeting," I said, "OK," so I took them to Priesthood meeting.

The very first thing they did, they put me in the Elders Quorum Presidency with Adair Chivers. Then he went to school, and I don't know how long he went to school, and I was acting Elders Quorum President until he came back. Then he took his job and was Elders Quorum President until he went to Salt Lake and they made me Elders Quorum President. Then when they did that, there was no more golf for me on Sunday and I was Elders Quorum President until I moved out of Fourth Ward. When I moved out of Fourth Ward, I came into Second Ward and they made me one of the counselors in the Elders Quorum Presidency. Then when they got tired of me there, they put me as a High Priest, and I've been the leader now for ten or eleven years. I can't remember how long it is, before President Bigelow was stake president.

JW: He was in there eight and a half years.

Duff: Then I was in there ten years, about that time, 'cause when I was a group leader, I tried to get him to teach a class with the high priests and he said he had another job coming up.

JW: So, that's what it was?

Duff: They made him stake president.

JW: He was a wonderful man.

Duff: He worked with me good, you know. President Bigelow and I got along good. I kid him a lot, but, yeah, I'd try to tease him a little bit, and it doesn't bother him the least bit.

JW: Tell us a little about your temple service.

Duff: I don't know. There was a telephone call came to our place and they said to call the Provo Temple and so we called out there to find out what it was and they said they wanted to talk to us. So we drove out there and went in and talked to them and he said they want you to work in the temple. You know, that worried me because, you know, I have a hard time memorizing things, so we told them we would, and, you know, they made us ordinance workers and that's when you do all of it but those up in the sealings. They're set apart a different job than we are, you know, ordinance workers are. We worked out there for four years and we drove back and forth every week. We worked there two days. First we started on Friday and Saturday, and that wasn't enough time to get rested up, so we started on Thursday and Friday, and that give us Saturday and Sunday to get rested up to get ready for the next trip.

JW: Did you drive out, like, on Wednesday evening?

Duff: No, we'd drive out Thursday morning. We'd do a session, then we would go to work at two thirty and work from then until nine o'clock. Then we'd go to bed and then we'd get up—to start with we did that. We had to get up at three o'clock in the morning and be there at five and that pretty near killed us off, so we had them let us go to work at eight o'clock. We didn't have to get up until six, you know. That helped us out quite a bit, but I enjoyed that work, oh, it was really nice work. You go to do it all, you know. The ones that was up there in the sealing room and those places, we never did have to do any of that.

JW: Did you have any difficulty traveling back and forth?

Duff: Not one bit, the only trouble we had was one winter we was driving to—from here out there—and when we got to Roosevelt, our carburetor froze up, and we could only get about twenty miles an hour to thirty, between twenty and thirty, you know. That frosted up and we go to Duchesne and the guy happened to be there at the garage. We took it in there and he... We took it in there and the frost was that thick on that carburetor. Boy, it was scary. We didn't know whether we was going to make to Duchesne or not. It must have had a lot of moisture in the gasoline but from then on we used this premium. Not only that, but we put stuff in there to take care of the moisture.

We drove out there and, you know, when they set us apart they said we wouldn't have any problems, so it made me feel pretty good. We had four winters to drive out there every week. Pretty near every time the roads was dry, but there was a few times the roads through Strawberry was slick. Now I think there was only twice from Duchesne to Heber that was slick, but other than that, the roads were dry all the time.

JW: It's a blessing to spend that much time and have no difficulty.

Duff: No, there was no difficulty. We stayed at Brother Downing's place out there, and I was down there eating with him one day, I didn't know the man, but we— you know how you sit beside somebody and he wanted to know where we was staying and we told him down there to the Roberts Hotel and he said he had a room up there. It was up there pretty near straight north of the temple up there in those hills. It was a nice home. He met us there in Provo one day and he saw us there eating and he thought we was going to come home. He said to come out and stay with him, but we already had a motel room. I'd rather get a room than go, like, up there to a person's place, you know, and stay, because you can go in there and if you want to watch T.V. or want to read, you can do that in the motel and you go out there for a vacation anyway, so you just as well enjoy it while your there.

JW: There is nothing more enjoyable than as assignment like that. I might ask you: your brothers and sisters, you still have five—?

Duff: I still have four sisters left, and I'm the only one that's left of the boys. The others are dead, passed away, you know. There was Harold and I and Bud there for a long time, and then Harold, he passed away, and then Bud, he, passed away. I got my four sisters, but I don't get to see them very much.

JW: Unless you go to the hospital, see them up there.

Duff: Yeah, I saw Verlie up there to the hospital Monday night. I go up there every once in a while with my wife to see who is in the hospital, check and see if anybody from the ward is there.

I went up to see Vic Wilkins and they'd moved him over here to the rest home. He's back over there. I went over there to see him last night and he didn't know anybody, but they said that yesterday, that the day before, he'd come out of it and he'd talked to all of them, you know, just real good. Then all at once he... They thought they were going to lose him yesterday morning.

JW: It's remarkable that he has the vitality to stay alive.

Duff: You know, you take a person when they are that sick and no show for them to get well, but if he could get well, you know... He lived a pretty good life.

JW: A very elegant speaker. He had so much vigor and a good memory, could recite scriptures.

Duff: He had a good memory on the Bible and the Book of Mormon both. He could quote several verses. That's different than me. I could read it, but I can't tell it.

JW: I memorized a few scriptures when I was young and I can remember some of those and recite them off, but now when I memorize, I have to keep going back to the facts.

Duff: It doesn't stick with you like it used to, does it? It seems like the older you get, the less memory you have of what you've read.

JW: That's why we have to keep going over and over it I guess.

Duff: Reading the Bible and stuff, sometimes I guess I don't read it just right.

JW: The Book of Mormon is a lot easier to understand.

Duff: Oh yeah, those people in the Bible they had awful names you know, some that you couldn't pronounce. You couldn't even spell them, you know, and you'd... One whole chapter would be of the names, you know, of all the genealogy of the father and the son and those sons and they had fathers and those sons.

JW: I was reading that last night about Esau, and then you get into about Joseph and his brothers and he was sold.

Duff: That was far as I got now. I've read it once before, but I can't remember, you know. You remember some of it but...

JW: That's real interesting to me. One time when I was still in high school, I read the Bible clear through and the Pearl of Great Price and the Doctrine and Covenants.

Tape ended here.